/338 cont./

757 164 834 Venereal diseases are rare. The Karajá systematically avoid them in that infected Karajá, as long as they are not cured, are prohibited from intercourse with the women and possibly banished from the tribe altogether. Pedro I, who became infected in Conceição, said that if he went home that way he would be unable to remain there: he would then no longer be a Karajá. They seem to have a remedy for syphilis, but it is said to be effective only in the hands of a good doctor.

Persons with infectious diseases are left alone; even the doctor does not pay any attention to them. The people simply move away, but leave food behind for them. If they die, the 853 others come and bury them. With death the disease, even an infectious one, is regarded as obliterated.

158 Mental illnesses seem to be very rare. I observed only one epileptic youth. Every month at the first quarter of the moon he is said to thrash about and walk around with his eyes closed. He had a strange look and his movements were heavy. For no reason 828 that I could see, he was suddenly seized by the others, overpowered, and thrown down; after a time he was permitted to get up again and walk about freely, but he was always kept under control.

828 According to their view, mental illness (ĭdjŏdĕ̆) is located in the small of the back.

Raving madness (ähähă̆) is incurable. During attacks the patient, by order of the chief, is bound at ankles and hands and laid on a mat in the shade.

158 In Schischá, on my return journey, I observed a strange custom, which probably goes back to a sadistic tendency. At night, the old bachelor, Maûdĭhĭ, and Mäŭzĭ were sitting with me in the tent. Suddenly the bachelor leaped at Maûzi's throat and squeezed it, saying, I want to kill you, and then finally let go. Thereupon all /339/ three of them tried this on themselves. They threw their heads back, placed their hands around their throats from behind, and, holding the breath, squeezed the larynx together from both sides with their thumbs. After a while, they let go, swallowed a few times, and took a deep breath. Extreme satisfaction was reflected on their faces.

6:Cook M-3,4 (ca. 1900) 1909
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Morning having come, the remainder of our flotilla soon appeared, and the Karayá became more and more friendly. We induced a few of them to go to their little cornfield across the river to get us some green corn and pumpkins. While awaiting their return, we were entertained by another exciting event. One of two or three Karayá men who were insane and haunted the wilds distant from the village, which they made an unwelcome visit to from time to time, suddenly appeared. Nearly all the men of the village were absent, having scattered off to hunt and fish, as is their custom. When the lunatic burst suddenly into view, the women and children were instantly stricken with panic. Amid wild shouting and screaming, chattering and jabbering, a grand rush was made for the canoes, of which there is one for each family; and as the women ran they caught up the children that were too young to care for themselves, and also grabbed up clay pots and other destructible objects, tumbled everybody and everything into the dugouts, then paddled frantically out into the stream. Soon, the mad savage came into the encampment, armed with a large bow and arrows and a heavy killing club; and amused himself by entering the huts and emerging through the roof; or, entering by breaking through the roof and passing out through the established opening. And while going from hut to hut, he shattered clay pots and pans with a heavy blow from his club, besides slaying parrots and macaws in the same manner. As he took turns around the village, he shot his arrow again and again high in the air in advance, taking it up each time as he arrived where it fell. Seeing him doing this, and fearing that we might become a target for his archery, we followed the example of our savage brethren and pushed out into the stream. But he did not appear to take any notice of us, nor of any one, and seemed to be continually muttering and moaning. He did not stay long in the village but was soon swallowed up again in the forest, and the chattering, jabbering, excited horde in the canoes returned to shore.